

Appl. No. 10/091,658
Amdt. Dated November 22, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 24, 2005
Attorney Docket No. P14426-US2
EUS/J/P/05-3301

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1-3, 7, 17-19, 22, 24-31, and 33-36. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-37 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Objections – Specification

The specification was objected to because the title of the invention is not descriptive. In response, the Applicant has modified the specification as suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner's consideration of the amendments to the specification is respectfully requested.

Examiner Objections - Claims

Claim 7 was objected to because of an informality. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims. The Applicant has amended the claim as suggested by the Examiner and the Examiner's consideration of the amended claim is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-10, 12, 14-20, 22, 25-31 and 34-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chang, et al. (US Patent No. 6,681,114 - Date of Patent: January 20, 2004, herein referred to as "Chang"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

The Applicant's invention discloses a User Distribution Server (UDS) in a network with multiple servers and users. The UDS supplies a local connection for a user to improve the efficiency and speed of assignment or connection of the user to a particular server in the network that has content or services applicable to a current request of the

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user. The invention discloses that each user may be identified by a plurality of user identifiers, each user identifier identifying the user under a particular service environment (subscribers willing to receive a particular service or set of services) and the particular user/service environment combination being associated with a particular server in the network. These particular servers are arranged for acting as primary databases from which user identifiers and necessary service data are downloaded into the UDS which acts as secondary database. The UDS answers a service request related query for a specific user to any service requester node by providing the server identifier to further address the particular server currently serving the user in the applicable service environment. (Page 9, line 19 – page 10, line 7) User data for all the users may be distributed among different servers throughout the network, taking into account the number of different identifiers for identifying the user and the services associated with the user. Distribution of the identifiers may change from time to time, as the operator may want to re-distribute users and the structure of the present invention eases the re-distribution. Primary (servers) and secondary databases (UDS) simplify data handling, allowing changes to be easily managed in primary databases, and those changes to be further updated in secondary databases. That is, assigning certain user data to any specific network server may be carried out statically, without user participation. As noted below, in contrast to the Chang reference, the operator criteria is neither randomly nor dynamically carried out as a consequence of the user moving from one area to another.

The Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner to amended claim 1.

1. (Currently Amended) In a network resolution domain a User Distribution Server (UDS) disposed to determine from a plurality of network servers a specific network server in charge of a user under a particular service environment, said UDS comprising:

a secondary database having a plurality of user identifiers for identifying the user under different service environments;

a mechanism for transferring said plurality of user identifiers and selected service data to said secondary database from primary databases associated with respective network servers; and

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a mechanism for receiving a service request from a Service Requester Node, said UDS sending a response comprising a server identifier for said specific network server to the Service Requester Node, said Service Requester Node then sending a new query to said specific network server. (emphasis added)

The Applicant respectfully asserts that at least the emphasized limitations in amended claim 1 are not found in the Chang reference.

The Chang reference appears to disclose a one way, seller to user, multicast system that operates according to prearranged user and seller preferences. Chang discloses a mechanism for suppliers of goods and services (Col. 3, lines 35-45), that is, as shown in Figure 1, an on-demand message system having a profile proxy server coupled to a plurality of message servers for sending multicast messages to mobile users. Users provide profile information to a local message server via the profile proxy server (Col. 1, lines 64-65, col. 4 lines 41-43) and the profile proxy server associates a profile database that is further associated with a message server local to a user's base location, e.g. home address (col.4 lines 41-54]. Profile information is stored in, and can be fetched from, a local user profile database associated with the message server (col.3 lines 54-59, col.8 lines 14-17].

Sellers also provide profile information that may include a business category and the conditions for broadcasting the seller's messages. (Abstract) Essentially, user and seller profiles are stored on the message server that is local to the respective user or seller (col. 6, lines 5-7). A user may move from one area to another and either registers the user's profile in the message server of the area where the user is located via the profile proxy server, or the message server obtains the user's profile from another message server via the profile proxy server.

In summary, the Chang reference appears to disclose a local database that retrieves profile information of a user from a central (profile) database in order for an approved seller to offer goods and services for sale to that user if the user roams into the seller's area. (Col. 3, lines 40-45 and lines 57-59).

The Chang reference does not appear to disclose a user identifier, other than the user profile. Nor is an identifier used that associates the user with a service

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environment. Further, Chang does not appear to redirect i.e., a service request to a specific server that can provide the requested service. Chang teaches a local database (107, 186) associated with respective message servers (106) and having user and seller profiles, but does not appear to teach the use of multiple user identifiers that are associated with different service environments.

In contrast to Chang, the user identifiers from the Applicant's invention are associated with the user and specific services that originate from specific servers in the network. The Chang reference uses information about a user profile, supplied from a central profile database, to determine if the user is a member of a particular service so that the service supplier can sell the service or goods to the user. The Applicant's invention uses the identifiers to direct a requester node to the requested service on the pertinent server quickly. The required server is identified and the Requester node is directed to the source/server of the requested service through which the user accesses the desired services.

Chang does not disclose a secondary database into which information flows from primary databases. Chang retrieves user profiles so that sellers can send a message to a user. The applicant's invention is similar to an operator assisted call. A user calls the operator and tells the operator (UDS) that the user wants to connect to a particular service, but does not have the number (server ID) of the service. The operator, having the number of the service, dials the number of the service and completes the connection between the user and the called party.

In contrast to the present invention, in the same type of operator assisted call example, Chang stores many user profiles, which are available to the operator. The operator determines that the user is in a local area and notifies a seller that is listed in the user profile and the operator connects the seller to the user – without a request from the user. The Chang reference discloses downloading a “service ID pool” containing information from the user profile so that the user can “...process or “receive” multicast messages from sellers...”. (Col 6, line 19 – 23). This is opposite to the Applicant's present invention. Furthermore, Chang does not disclose more than one user identifier for services that may be available only under certain user conditions and whether

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preferences and conditions in the user profile may be different depending on the user identifier at a certain time. .

The Applicant respectfully submits that the Chang reference fails to disclose a number of the limitations recited in Applicant's claim 1. These being the case, claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom are distinguishable from the Chang reference.

Claims 17 and 35 are analogous to amended claim 1 and contain similar limitations. The respective dependent claims recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claims 17 and 35. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-10, 12, 14-20, 22, 25-31 and 34-37.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 11, 13, 21, 23, 24, 32 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang et al (hereinafter Chang) US Patent No. 6,681,114 in view of Richard Paul Ejzak (hereinafter Ejzak) US Patent No. 6,871,070. The Applicant has amended claims 1, 17 and 35 to better define the intended scope of the claimed invention. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the Ejzak reference is disqualified as a prior art reference with respect to the present invention. The Ejzak reference appears to have been filed July 31, 2001. The Applicant's application was filed March 4, 2002 in the United States, but claims the benefit of priority of a co-pending U.S. Provisional Application filed March 6, 2001. (Page 1, lines 2-4)

The Ejzak reference is cited for teaching Domain name server, Light-Weight Directory Address Protocol, Home Subscription Server, Interrogating Call Status Control Function and Serving Call Status Control Function. Even if the Ejzak reference were not disqualified, Ejzak does not disclose, at the least, a secondary database in which user identifiers and service environments linked to the user identifiers are stored along with the identity of the servers associated with the user identifiers/service environments.

The Chang and Ejzak references, individually or in combination fail to render claims 11, 13, 21, 23, 24, 32 and 33 un-patentable for at least the reasons that the

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combination fails to disclose the user identifiers and associated service environments, and sending a specific server ID that can supply a requested service to the requesting node. This being the case, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims

Claims 11, 13, 21, 23, 24, 32 and 33 depend from amended independent claims 1, 17 and 35 respectively, and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of the independent claims. Therefore, the withdrawal rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

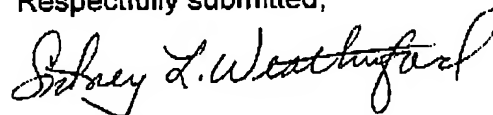
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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